

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAJ-01 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10 /070 W

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P R 050925Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4685

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

S E C R E T TAIPEI 1718

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, AMER, US, XC, VS, TW

SUBJECT: GROC CONCERNS ABOUT VIETNAM AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

1. SATURDAY MORNING FONMIN SHEN WITH VICE FONMIN TSAI WEI-PING PRESENT CONVEYED TO ME VERY SERIOUS CONCERN OF GROC OVER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS SOUTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. HE ALSO DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH (A) OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS RELATING TO RESETTLEMENT AND EVACUATION FROM SOUTH VIETNAM WHICH ARE DISCUSSED SEPTEL AND (B) DEPARTURE FROM PHNOM PENH OF ROC MISSION, ALSO COVERED SEPTEL.

2. MIN SHEN FIRST ASKED WHAT I COULD TELL HIM ABOUT SITUATION AND ANTICIPATED U.S. ACTIONS, GIVEN THE GRAVE DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. HE ESPECIALLY ASKED TO HAVE HIS GOVERNMENT INFORMED WHEN ANY IMPORTANT POLICY DECISIONS ARE REACHED ABOUT THE PRESENT CRISIS AND MEASURES TO BE TAKEN. HE RECOGNIZED ESPECIALLY SEVERE IMPACT WHICH RECENT EVENTS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY HAVING IN THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES AND ELSEWHERE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA BUT HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA IS NEXT DOOR AND THAT APPREHENSIONS HERE ABOUT THE SPREADING REPER-

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CUSSIONS OF EVENTS IN INDO-CHINA HAVE GROWN CONSIDERABLY.

HE WAS AWARE OF PRESIDENT FORD'S RECENT STATEMENTS AND
RESPONSES OF SPECIAL SENSITIVITY THAILAND AND
PHILIPPINES.

3. I TOLD SHEN THAT I BELIEVED GENERAL WEYAND'S REPORT
TO THE PRESIDENT AS WELL AS AMBASSADOR MARTIN'S REPORTING
FROM SAIGON WOULD BE KEY ELEMENTS IN PRESIDENT'S CONSIDERATION
OF FURTHER U.S. ACTION, NOTING WEYAND'S THOROUGH UNDERSTAND-
ING OF MILITARY SITUATION FROM PAST PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND
HIS ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH PRESIDENT THIEU AND
MILITARY LEADERS. I SUMMARIZED OUR CURRENT EFFORTS TO
PROVIDE MILITARY, FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES AND HUMANITARIAN
RELIEF TO CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM ON EMERGENCY BASIS.
I ADDED THIS IN SOME CASES BEING EXPANDED BUT AS HE WAS
AWARE LONGER RUN CONTINUING SUPPLY WAS DEPENDENT ON CON-
GRESSIONAL ACTION. I DID NOT FORESEE ANY DIRECT INTERVEN-
TION BY U.S. ARMED FORCES IN EITHER COUNTRY. AS HE WAS
AWARE, HOWEVER, U.S. MILITARY AND CIVILIANS DEEPLY
INVOLVED ON CRASH BASIS IN SUPPLY AND HUMANITARIAN
WORK.

4. SHEN AGAIN ASKED TO BE KEPT CURRENT ON OUR ASSESSMENT OF
RAPIDLY DEVELOPING SITUATION (GIVEN ROC PERSONNEL
IN INDO-CHINA, AMONG OTHER REASONS) AND HE REPEATED HIS
REQUEST THAT HIS GOVERNMENT BE INFORMED OF ANY SIGNIFICANT
POLICY DECISIONS REACHED BY U.S.

5. DEPT. PLEASE REPEAT TO TAIPEI PERTINENT SUMMARIES,
ANALYSES AND STATEMENTS TO ENABLE US RESPOND TO GROC REQUEST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TAIPEI01718
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750118-0800
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750477/aaaacsvn.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROC CONCERNS ABOUT VIETNAM AND SOUTHEAST ASIA
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, AEMR, US, XC, VS, TW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006